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President's Corner

Dear Friends:

Will you please read this as an intimate message and a personal reply to the many letters which have come to me? On behalf of the Executive Committee allow me to say thank you, for the kind comment regarding the Conference plans and program. The shortcomings and omissions are your President's alone. They are due to his desire to be democratically open-minded — the result of his effort to include the topics and speakers which you have deemed essential to the purpose of the Nashville Conference. We have followed *your* judgment in so far as the expressed wishes of *others* equally interested, would permit. Many excellent suggestions have been omitted either because of their late arrival or the limit of time.

The speakers, known by reputation to many of you, are, almost without exception, leaders who have a nationwide outlook and experience. Each of them will bring a real and vital message which no thinking supervisor can well afford to miss. Remember please that this is peculiarly *your* Conference. Upon each, as members of the music profession rests the responsibility of enrolling a Conference membership, which will adequately provide for the expenditures made necessary by the program — the traveling expenses, in some cases the entertainment only, of those who will come for the sake of the ideal for which this Conference stands. Secondly, each member owes to the su-



pervisors of the South the inspiration of a largely attended Conference and the opportunity for wide personal acquaintance and interchange of thought with those of broader experience — the opportunity to gain from a single Conference what you and I have derived from several. Lastly, your own educational life demands the uplift, the outlook and the definite contribution which these speakers, chosen not for their availability but for their peculiar ability, will bring.

There have come to my attention some instances which are worthy of emulation: one supervisor has chosen the Nashville Conference instead of a summer of study in the East; another is going to Nashville for her vacation; a third has convinced herself that she is justified in borrowing the money to attend this particular Conference for the sake of increased efficiency and the maintenance of her position of leadership in her community and in her state.

I trust you all know the little book of the Pilgrim Press written by Margaret Slattery, "He Took it Upon Himself". Let not the fact that what we do may be less widely heralded than the work of Horace Mann, Helen Keller, Jacob Riis, Dr. Bernardo deter us from meeting the challenge.

Let us all rally around the standard of our organization, and meet in Nashville.

Sincerely,
FRANK A. BEACH.